

Emergency Airworthiness Directive

AD No.: 2021-0072-E

Issued: 12 March 2021

Note: This Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) is issued by EASA, acting in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1139 on behalf of the European Union, its Member States and of the European third countries that participate in the activities of EASA under Article 129 of that Regulation.

This AD is issued in accordance with Regulation (EU) 748/2012, Part 21.A.3B. In accordance with Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.301, the continuing airworthiness of an aircraft shall be ensured by accomplishing any applicable ADs. Consequently, no person may operate an aircraft to which an AD applies, except in accordance with the requirements of that AD, unless otherwise specified by the Agency [Regulation (EU) 1321/2014 Annex I, Part M.A.303] or agreed with the Authority of the State of Registry [Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Article 71 exemption].

Design Approval Holder's Name:

LEONARDO S.p.A.

Type/Model designation(s):

AB412 and AB412EP helicopters

Effective Date: 16 March 2021

TCDS Number(s): EASA.R.114

Foreign AD: Not applicable

Supersedure: None

ATA 25 – Equipment / Furnishings – Hoist Support – Inspection / Replacement

Manufacturer(s):

AgustaWestland S.p.A., formerly Agusta S.p.A., Costruzioni Aeronautiche Giovanni Agusta

Applicability:

AB412 and AB412EP helicopters, all serial numbers.

Definitions:

For the purpose of this AD, the following definitions apply:

Affected part: Any hoist support assembly having Part Number (P/N) 212-8800-02-1, except those that passed an inspection (no defect found) in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Serviceable part: Any hoist support assembly, eligible for installation, which is not an affected part.

The ASB: Leonardo Alert Service Bulletin (ASB) 412-165.

Groups: Group 1 helicopters are those that have an affected part installed. Group 2 helicopters are those that do not have an affected part installed.

Reason:

An occurrence was reported of finding a cracked affected part, as defined in this AD, installed on a military AB412 helicopter. Relevant investigation is still on-going. The same P/N part is installed on civil AB412 helicopters.

This condition, if not detected and corrected, could affect the structural integrity of the hoist support assembly, leading to in-flight detachment of the hoist assembly, possibly resulting in damage to, and reduced control of, the helicopter.

To address this potential unsafe condition, Leonardo issued the ASB, providing applicable inspections instructions.

For the reasons described above, this AD requires a one-time inspection of affected parts and, depending on findings, replacement. This AD requires also reporting to Leonardo.

This AD is considered an interim action and further AD action may follow.

Required Action(s) and Compliance Time(s):

Required as indicated, unless accomplished previously:

Inspection(s):

- (1) For Group 1 helicopters: Before next flight after the effective date of this AD, inspect the affected part in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Corrective Action(s):

- (2) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any crack is found, before next flight, replace the affected part with a serviceable part in accordance with the instructions of the ASB.

Parts Installation:

- (3) For Group 1 and Group 2 helicopters: From the effective date of this AD, it is allowed to install on any helicopter a hoist support assembly, provided it is a serviceable part, as defined in this AD.

Reporting:

- (4) If, during the inspection as required by paragraph (1) of this AD, any crack is found, as identified in the ASB, within 15 days after that inspection, or within 15 days after the effective date of this AD, whichever occurs later, report the inspection results to Leonardo. Using the inspection report attached to the ASB is an acceptable method to comply with this requirement.

Ref. Publications:

Leonardo SB 412-165 original issue dated 12 March 2021.

The use of later approved revisions of the above-mentioned document is acceptable for compliance with the requirements of this AD.



Remarks:

1. If requested and appropriately substantiated, EASA can approve Alternative Methods of Compliance for this AD.
2. The results of the safety assessment have indicated the need for immediate publication and notification, without the full consultation process.
3. Enquiries regarding this AD should be referred to the EASA Safety Information Section, Certification Directorate. E-mail: ADs@easa.europa.eu.
4. Information about any failures, malfunctions, defects or other occurrences, which may be similar to the unsafe condition addressed by this AD, and which may occur, or have occurred on a product, part or appliance not affected by this AD, can be reported to the [EU aviation safety reporting system](#). This may include reporting on the same or similar components, other than those covered by the design to which this AD applies, if the same unsafe condition can exist or may develop on an aircraft with those components installed. Such components may be installed under an FAA Parts Manufacturer Approval (PMA), Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) or other modification.
5. For any question concerning the technical content of the requirements in this AD, please contact: Leonardo S.p.A. Helicopters, Customer Support & Services, Product Support Engineering & Licenses DPT, Via Giovanni Agusta 520, 21017 Cascina Costa di Samarate (VA) – Italy, Telephone: +39 0331 711429, Fax: +39 0331 915145, E-mail: absereng.AW@leonardocompany.com.

